

**TIPPECANOE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 12, 2008**

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were: Chairman Nathan Miller, Dave Reagan, Garry Smith, Jimmy Kesterson, Commissioner Ruth Shedd, and Withers. Also present were Director Mark Kirby and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Dave Reagan moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2008 meeting, second by Garry Smith; motion carried.

**Director's Report**

Director Kirby spoke regarding past involvement with the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair. He received a letter from Sheriff Brown thanking TEMA and Martin Webb for assistance in organizing the traffic direction and use of equipment for the fair.

The siren project is nearly complete; a siren map was distributed with zones and siren locations throughout Tippecanoe County. After a site visit, the vendor identified repairs needed to a few sirens and also reported the zoning controls for Purdue University will need to be replaced to be compatible with the main system. The total amount spent to date is around \$12,000 and the estimate for repairs is approximately \$14,000 with \$2,000 being paid by Purdue. Chairman Miller suggested TEMA consider battery back-up in the siren management plan.

Members discussed developers being responsible for sirens in new subdivisions. Director Kirby agreed and reported the Builders Association of Greater Lafayette is opposed to the idea. Jimmy Kesterson suggested getting on the agenda for the Ordinance committee to start the process.

Director Kirby reported the garage/maintenance fund is depleting quickly. Maintenance costs are approximately \$3,500 per month. Along with the high price of fuel, maintenance of TEMA equipment is also costly. Director Kirby added a majority of TEMA equipment is stored outside which contributes to the amount of maintenance required. He confirmed TEMA and the Commissioners have considered several storage options in the past and continue to look for a space large enough to store all equipment.

The state has agreed to maintain the previous emergency warning levels starting at 3 as the lowest and 1 as the highest level of emergency. Director Kirby explained the warning system will be a common system used county-wide to notify residents of any type of emergency. He added this is an excellent opportunity to publicize the system to ensure the entire county is aware of the levels and their meaning.

On September 2, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., TEMA will participate in the Community Safety Fair held by the Red Cross and the Tippecanoe County Health Department. The event will take place at the fairgrounds and involve around 15 different emergency service providers.

TEMA will receive \$138,000 grant money to purchase new communications equipment. He will purchase portable radios distributed to local fire departments as needed.

Jimmy Kesterson shared his concern regarding the Reverse 911 System. He questioned whether or not grant funds could be used to implement the new system. Director Kirby reported several items are delaying the process of the system to include purchase of telephone number database estimated to cost \$4,000 per month, purchase/maintenance of telephone lines, and the cost of mass calling at \$.20 per call accessing the selected system. The Sheriff is currently negotiating a new 911 contract which may offer Reverse 911 technology. Jimmy Kesterson suggested this board take the next step to invest in the system for mass notification. Director Kirby reported the 911 service provider should be announced in the near future and will dictate how Reverse 911 is implemented.

TEMA will sponsor the County Fire Association bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds and starts at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and a presentation about TEMA equipment at 7:00 p.m.

Director Kirby is petitioning to state officials for NIMS training for 300/400 courses. This is a 3-day course and is not available online. The Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP), a federally funded entity, has trainers available to teach the courses locally. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has denied the county access to the funds for training by ODP. Director Kirby confirmed if training is performed locally, Martin Webb would be out of the office a 29 days to train users in District IV. The state is denying district federal funding in an effort to make them self-sustainable.

The Purdue Homeland Security Institute is applying for a grant through NASA for an environmental study to predict tornadoes and has asked TEMA to participate. If accepted, TEMA could be the recipient of new technology development.

### **Communication Committee**

Dave Reagan reported the communications committee has decided to meet every other month rather than monthly. With the Reverse 911 on hold the committee will delay any action on this project.

Tip XX will be held at Eli Lilly on September 16, 2008. Eli Lilly will work with TEMA, TEAS, Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department and the Town of Shadeland on this exercise.

The September EMA volunteer meeting will coincide with Safety Fair held at the fairgrounds to encourage volunteers to attend.

Dave Reagan moved to adjourn.